(e) the measures adopted or proposed to be adopted to stop sea erosion ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Misuse of Overhead Coloured Lights

2170. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the blatant misuse of blue, red and coloured lights overhead on cars in Delhi ;

(b) if so, the norms and guidelines laid down for use of such lights ; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such misuse and the resultant disturbance to road traffic in Delhi caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993 provide that no motor vehicle owner, except certain specified categories, shall allow or fix any coloured light in the front and on top of the roof other than the rear of the motor vehicle provided that this provision shall not apply to the internal lighting indicator.

(c) A special drive was launched by Delhi Police to prosecute the violators for misuse of coloured lights which resulted in 53 cases of prosecution during first six months of 1997.

[Translation]

Gap between Support Price and Purchase Price

2171. PROF. RREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the gap between the support price and the consumer purchase price is constantly increasing in the country ;

(b) if not, the support price of the potato and apple in Himachal Pradesh and estimated minimum and optimum consumer purchase price of items in the country ;

(c) whether the interests of consumers are being affected adversely due to this gap ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for agricultural commodities are announced by Government based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural costs and prices (CACP) which fixes the MSP on the basis of cost of production etc. for the entire crop year. MSP are in the nature of minium remunerative prices payable to farmers in the event of significant fall in market prices of these commodities so as to protect the income of the farmers. MSP, therefore, may not move in tandem with consumer purchase prices, because the consumer purchase prices are retail prices, which are infulenced by, *interalia*, the overall supply and demand conditions of the commodity, trading costs and margins, prevailing market conditions etc. While MSP is a constant price for the entire period of the crop year, market prices keep fluctuating.

(c) and (d) Government has accorded the highest priority to rotect the interests of the consumers. Apart from certain long-term measures to incresse the production of essential commondities, imports of commodities which are in short supply are encouraged to augment the availability of these items. Some of the commodities are also supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at prices which are below market levels. Further, stringent actions are being taken against hoarders and black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act etc. by the State/UT Governments.

National Live Stock Policy

2172. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to formulate any National Live Stock Policy ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the draft policy has been prepared and sent to the State Governments for their opinion; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Formulation of a National Livestock Policy is being contemplated to steer the growth of the livestock sector in an organised and coordinated manner and to ehhance production and overall efficiency. The policy approach include, *inter alia*

(i) participation of the small producers in the process of growth and globalisation

(ii) intensification of breeding services for genetic improvements